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Eyes on Wildlife

U.S. Forest Service
Watchable Wildlife Program



Eyes on Wildlife . . . Bringing Wildlife and People Together on the National Forests and Grasslands

Wildlife Watching—Popular Pastime. Maybe it's the uncertain times or the too-fast track. But, for a glimpse of bluebirds returning in the spring or brown bears gathering for a salmon feast, people are flocking in record numbers to watch wildlife.

In this country, more people take trips to watch wildlife than go to all professional sporting events combined. They come by car, boat, foot, ski, bike, wheelchair, and float plane to see monarch butterflies migrating en masse, eagles squabbling over a deer carcass, or bighorn sheep butting heads on a hillside.

Where To Watch? The National Forests and Grasslands. For many people who watch wildlife, the destination of choice is the National Forests and Grasslands, where 191 million spectacular acres, about the size of Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming together, are habitat for more than 10,000 plant and 3,000 wildlife and fish species.

Viewing a Species on the Brink. On guided tours in the jack pine forests of Michigan's Huron-Manistee National Forest, naturalists explain how important nesting habitat is to the seriously endangered Kirtland's warbler and the importance of planned management activities to its survival as a species.



Bob Harrington



© John Hyde

A Picnic for Brown Bears. Visitors fly or take boats to Pack Creek Cooperative Management Area, a food-rich bear habitat on Admiralty Island. At Pack Creek, part of the Tongass National Forest of southeast Alaska, visitors may see the usually solitary brown bear by the dozens.

Teaching People About Wildlife and Healthy Ecosystems

Eyes on Wildlife—See, Learn, and Conserve.

Eyes on Wildlife, the USDA Forest Service Watchable Wildlife Program, helps National Forest and Grassland visitors see wildlife as a part of an ecosystem and appreciate what they see.

Often the common meeting ground for wildlife and people is the wildlife viewing site—platforms, blinds, and interpretive trails, carefully designed to give people the opportunity unobtrusively to enjoy wildlife. Guided tours, presentations, outdoor classes, signs, exhibits, planning with partners and volunteers, videos, fact sheets and books, maps, and more teach people about their natural world. The healthy ecosystem and how that system works is a vital part of the wildlife story.



Sue Reel

A Canoe Safari in the Rockies. On a trail—actually a waterway—on the Lolo National Forest in Montana, visitors are invited to watch for osprey, loon, heron, beaver, mink, and muskrat while traveling *in* their habitat.



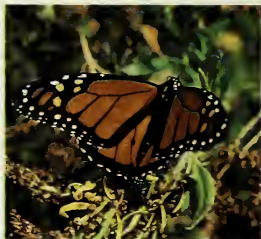
Michael St. Michel

Watching the Salmon Swim By. An underwater portal allows visitors to Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit's stream profile chamber to watch kokanee salmon spawning, while visual displays explain other elements and processes of the underwater ecosystem.

Eyes on Wildlife . . .



Mark Lauer



Barry Nehr



USDA Forest Service



John Hyde



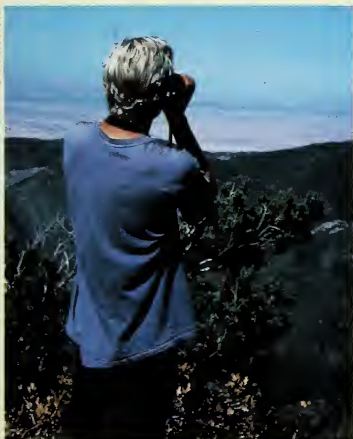
John Florence

Getting People Involved . . . A Community Affair

Good Things Have Already Happened. The Forest Service and Eyes on Wildlife partners have already helped many people see wildlife and care about nature. For example, the Forest Service and partners cooperatively developed the popular State wildlife viewing guides describing viewing sites, established new viewing sites, and organized educational events.

What happens when a fire is lit in those who visit the National Forests and Grasslands? More people join the vital work of protecting the environment. Together, this team—the agency and partners—flies a little higher, achieves a little more.

Jim Anderson



1,000 Hawks and Counting. In New Mexico's Cibola National Forest, personnel from HawkWatch International help visitors take part in the official fall and spring bird censuses from a lofty ridgetop called Manzano Mountain Hawk Watch.

Richard W. Wyman



Barrierfree Wildlife Watching. A council of mobility- and sight-impaired advisers helped the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont create an opportunity for everyone to enjoy and appreciate the hardwood forests and beaver ponds that inspired the poet Robert Frost.

Find Out What Is Going On and What You Can Do

To find out more about wildlife watching or helping people enjoy, understand, and develop an appreciation for wild ecosystems in your community, call or write the national forest or regional office nearest you.

Northern Region (R-1)
Federal Building
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807-7669
406-329-3511

Rocky Mountain Region (R-2)
740 Simms Street
P.O. Box 25127
Lakewood, CO 80225
303-275-5350

Southwestern Region (R-3)
Federal Building
517 Gold Avenue SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505-842-3292

Intermountain Region (R-4)
Federal Building
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401-2310
801-625-5352

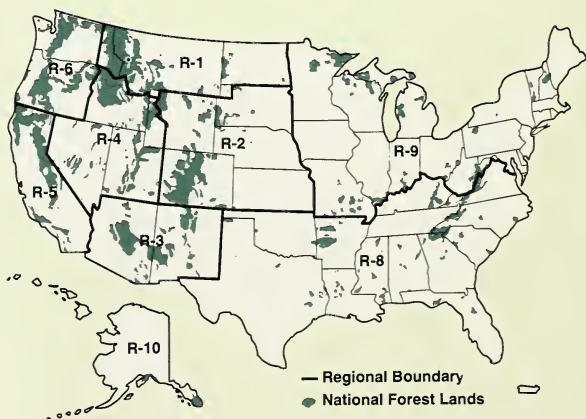
Pacific Southwest Region (R-5)
630 Sansome Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
415-705-2874

Pacific Northwest Region (R-6)
333 SW First Avenue
P.O. Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208
503-326-2971

Southern Region (R-8)
1720 Peachtree Road NW
Atlanta, GA 30367
404-347-2384

Eastern Region (R-9)
310 West Wisconsin Avenue
Room 500
Milwaukee, WI 53203
414-297-3693

Alaska Region (R-10)
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628
907-586-8863



Whether watching an osprey plunge into a lake or a butterfly sipping wildflower nectar, there's an indescribable thrill to seeing wildlife in native habitats. The power of the Eyes on Wildlife program lies in its ability to capture the moment and interpret the significance of ecosystems in a way that sticks. The ultimate result? More people will have the chance to participate in conserving our wild heritage.

Jack Ward Thomas
Forest Service Chief





Broad-billed hummingbird, Coronado National Forest



Wildlife appears and everybody watches . . .

*A group of townspeople recently gathered
to dedicate a new birds-of-prey viewing site.*

*As the forest supervisor
stepped forward to speak,
a great horned owl swooped over the podium
and landed in a nearby spruce.*

*And those gathered—every age and
walk of life—fixed their eyes
on the beautiful, blinking bird.*



Partners in Watchable Wildlife

Bureau of Land Management

Bureau of Reclamation

Defenders of Wildlife

Department of Defense

Forest Service

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

The Izaak Walton League of America, Inc.

National Audubon Society

National Park Service

National Wildlife Federation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

State and local agencies and organizations



The binocular logo, located along highways, identifies viewing sites.

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United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
FS 531
Revised August 1994

